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Switalski Press Release

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Senate Defeats First-Year Driver Limitation

Switalski leads opposition to House Bill 4600

(Lansing)- State Senator Michael Switalski (D-Roseville) helped defeat a bill that would have limited first year drivers to one unrelated passenger in their vehicle. The bill, House Bill 4600, was defeated in the Senate 17-21, on October 6.

“We already have addressed this problem with a highly successful graduated driver’s license system,” said Switalski. “We are greatly restricting the pursuit of happiness for a huge number of people for a theoretical improvement in safety. Are we willing to trade one of our-God given inalienable rights so cheaply?”

Michigan’s graduated driver’s license system already restricts new drivers in several ways. During their first year, they can only drive with an adult over 21 years of age and for the second year, they are not permitted to drive after midnight. Proponents of the bill argued that passenger restrictions would improve safety. But opponents pointed out the bill would ban car pooling and double dating.

“This bill would punish the good with the bad,” said Switalski. “We don’t take that approach with gun laws in this state and we are right not to. We don’t take everyone’s gun rights away because of the criminal activities of a few. Why would we restrict this privilege which is far more widely exercised and cherished?”

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